



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Field Office

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## **Attention Hunters with Dogs**

There have been a number of dogs which have contracted serious bacterial infections in their paws after a day of waterfowl hunting in the area marshes. These infections are caused by naturally occurring bacteria in the water and soil which can enter the body through cuts and punctures. Some of these wounds, especially if they are in the dog's pads, are so small, they are very difficult to see. Symptoms of infection are painful and swollen paws and/or legs, which can occur within a few hours of exposure.

Please check your dog carefully after a day in the field, and if these symptoms are present, you should contact your veterinarian. The infections can be successfully thwarted, but it is important to seek treatment as quickly as possible.